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"serving St Helena and her community worldwide"

Thursday 15 February 2024



Smile for the Camera

Burglar caught on camera in Longwood



St Helena Love Story *for Valentine's*



Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Arrives

OPINION

SENTINEL COMMENT

Luke Bennett, SAMS

Lately I've been interested in the Amazon Rainforest and all the stories that go with it. There is so much still to be explored, for instance there are five and a half million square kilometres (about the same size of India) but what they have found is incredible. There are recordings dating back to the 1500's describing that there were thriving cities in the Amazon the size of London. Scientists believe that it was a population of 20 million people living in the forest. Because the soil in the rainforest is not good for growing crops, evidence has been found that the population made their own soil using special methods that would help them thrive. Unfortunately, it is believed that these cities got wiped out by Spanish explorers who introduced small pox to these cities, but there are still some indigenous tribes in the Amazon today and some of them who are completely oblivious to the outside world. The big mystery with these tribes is how they survive in the Amazon. For example, everything is wet in the Amazon, so lighting a fire without gasoline, matches etc. would be extremely difficult and near impossible to make - so in the night, how do they see? Did their eyes just adjust? Conservationists believe that they do not use fire because of the predators. There is so much more to talk about and understand about the Amazon and it makes me wonder, although we have recordings of our Island, if there are things that nobody knows about us, before the Island was said to be discovered?



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ST HELENA NEWS

The Radio Boss

The Sentinel speaks to SAMS Radio One Manager Donna Crowie



Demy Herne, SAMS

During this week, on Tuesday 13 February, the world celebrated World Radio Day. This also marked the 11th birthday of SAMS Radio One.

World Radio Day commemorates the unique power of radio as a medium for information, entertainment and connection. Its establishment reflects the ongoing relevance of radio even in an increasingly digital age.

The first World Radio Day was celebrated in 2012 with events and activities taking place all around the world. The day quickly gained international recognition, with radio stations, organisations, and individuals participating in the celebrations.

This year's theme for World Radio Day was 'Radio: A century informing, entertaining and educating'. To mark the occasion, The Sentinel decided to speak to one of our own in CEO and Radio Manager for SAMS, Donna Crowie.

Donna first entered into the world of media whilst doing some work experience when she was in school. At the age of 16, after completing her GCSE's, Donna went into full time employment and slowly started to work her way up from Assistant to Radio Manager with Saint FM, during a time when the station was closed and reopened under Saint FM Community Radio.

After spending ten years with Saint FM, Donna moved across the road to work at SAMS in September of 2015 as a Junior Radio Manger before moving up to Senior Radio Manager. In 2021, she was promoted to CEO and Radio Manager for SAMS.

"Radio hasn't always been my dream job, but I find that now it is something that I enjoy, and here at SAMS no two days are the same, so I am always on the go," commented Donna. "I learnt a lot from past presenters Angela Williams and Emma-Jayne Yon and I also had some local training from Tony Leo whilst working at Saint FM."

The Sentinel asked Donna if you could end of the interview with a inspirational quote about radio, this is what Donna had to say: "This sounds silly, but I always believe in this - Always Smile, they might not see it, but they will hear it!"

Smile for the Camera

Burglary caught on camera in Longwood

Liam Yon, SAMS





On Friday morning, images and videos surfaced on Social Media depicting what appears to be a burglary being carried out on St Helena.

In the images - which are gaining a lot of attention after being posted to the popular St Helena Bring and Buy Facebook Page - a male wearing a white hoodie and jeans, with a beanie and a black face covering can be seen entering the premises of a small local shop belonging to Larry Francis in Longwood.

Time stamped at after 2am in the morning of Wednesday, 7 February, the video and pictures show the thief, having removed his shoes prior to entering, sneaking into the room where two other males, including the owner, are sleeping. The burglar then ignores the two men, creeping over to a nearby desk and snatching what looks to be a red money box before quickly evading the area.

While no one has yet named or confirmed the suspect, many comments have suggested that there are members of the community who think they have indentified the thief despite his disguise.

So far, there hasn't been a comment or statement made from the Royal St Helena Police on whether the matter is being investigated, though with the evidence posted for all to see, it seems only a matter of time before a suspect is in custody.





"It is a huge honour"

Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP becomes first Commons Speaker to visit St Helena



Liam Yon, SAMS

St Helena is on a roll at the moment with the arrival of high-profile visitors to the Island. On Tuesday, the Right Honourable Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP arrived to the Island, becoming the first ever Speaker of the UK House of Commons to visit St Helena.

"We are honoured to welcome Sir Lindsay Hoyle to St Helena," commented HE Governor Phillips. "This is the first time a serving Speaker of the UK House of Commons has visited the Island. The visit provides an opportunity to strengthen the bonds between the UK and St Helena legislatures and discuss how St Helena is responding to the current national and global context. It also allows us to showcase to Speaker Hoyle this remarkable Island and its community."

Sir Lindsay Hoyle is a strong advocator for the UK Overseas Territories and has made it his mission to give a voice and a platform to OT's within UK Parliament. History was made in July 2021 when Sir Lindsay hosted an inaugural virtual meeting of ten of the OTs that have Speakers or Presiding Officers. This was followed up by the first Commons and Overseas Territories Speakers' Conference in London, followed by one in Anguilla in 2023, with the next gathering set to take place in Turks and Caicos later this year.

Arriving for a five-day visit, Sir Lindsay Hoyle plans to address a sitting of the Legislative Council, while he will also take part in a wreath-laying ceremony and hopes to meet a wide range of different groups and entrepreneurs with a view to learning about some of the challenges faced on the Island.

In addition, focussing on the youth of the Island, Sir Lindsay will also be holding discussions with young people in the hope of encouraging the reinstatement of a St Helena Youth Parliament.

"It is a huge honour, and in my opinion long overdue, to be the first Speaker of the House of Commons to set foot on the beautiful island of St Helena, so I am delighted to accept the Governor's invitation to visit," commented Sir Lindsay Hoyle. "I look forward to hearing about the difference the international airport is making to residents and the economy, and talking to small business owners and a cross-section of the community to discover what life on the island is like."

Sir Lindsay was received at the airport on Tuesday by Governor Phillips, Chief Minister Julie Thomas, and Speaker of the Legislative Council, Cyril Gunnell, before travelling to Plantation House, where he finally got to meet the Island's oldest and most famous resident - 192-year-old Jonathan the Tortoise, which is something Sir Lindsay had looked forward to as a self-proclaimed "massive animal lover". Sir Lindsay is the proud owner of a pet tortoise, so was delighted to be able to present Jonathan with his Guinness World Record certificate recognising him as the oldest living chelonian.

The Sentinel welcomes Sir Lindsay Hoyle to St Helena and looks forward to speaking to him over the airways of SAMS Radio One on Friday.





"So Special and Unique"

Celebrating Valentines with the story of Steve & Tara's Surprise St Helena Wedding

Donna Crowie, SAMS



To celebrate Valentine's Day 2024, The Sentinel shares a beautiful love story that took place right here on St Helena, following the arrival of Sailing Vessel Penn Station and love birds Steve and Tara in September 2023.

The vessel started its journey from Malaysia in February 2023 with Steve and girlfriend Tara on board - Steve's goal being to sail around the world.

The couple shared the aim of arriving to the Caribbean by December 2023. During this leg of their journey, the pair arrived to St Helena in September. "It was a nice stop in the middle of our Atlantic Ocean crossing from Namibia to Brazil," explained Tara to The Sentinel.

While Tara was excited about the unique stopover, Steve, on the other hand, had his own plans. In a whirlwind romantic gesture, Steve got down on one and knee and proposed to Tara while here on St Helena. "All he told me was that I needed a nice dress, because we were going on a fancy date," smiled Tara. "Little did I know he was going to propose."

The proposal was just the beginning of the surprise however, as for Tara an even bigger surprise awaited. After proposing, Steve suggested that "we could get married on the Island right away" explained Tara, as he had "processed the marriage license already."

Initially, Tara's reply was 'no' as she wanted her family to be there for the special occasion. However, after speaking with her family, she decided to say 'yes' to getting married on the Island of St Helena.

Steve saw the opportunity to wed Tara on St Helena as being really special with the thinking that not a lot of people even know about the Island, let alone have been here. As another "pretty awesome little anecdote," being a sailor, Steve enjoyed the idea of getting married close to the GMT line.

With just a few days to prepare, Tara was off in search of a white dress. This is no easy task on the Island, with most brides ordering wedding dresses well in advance to allow for them to be shipped in. Tara asked around and was pointed in the direction of renowned local tailor, Wanda Isaac, who, in short notice, made a lovely dress for her special day.

Tara and Steve both visited Debbie's hairdresser in the market to get a fresh cut, and then to Lara Lawrence, photographer of Creative Captures, to talk about capturing their special day - all of this was done in a day.

Next up, witnesses for the marriage ceremony. The only residents that the couple knew on-Island were Dustin from the Blue Lantern, along with his wife Shannon. The pair, along with two yachties that Steve and Tara had just met named Ton and Mark, agreed to bear witness to the loving couples wedding.

With no flower shop on-Island for Tara's bouquet, Steve managed to pick some wild lilies to make up a quick bouquet, however on the big day, Dustin and Shannon came through with a beautiful bouquet for the bride. The simple wedding ceremony took place in the Castle followed by a very small reception at the Mantis Hotel, with the newlyweds getting to spend their wedding night in one of the hotel rooms.

"I would like to make a special mention of Karen Yon who was a great help in all this," commented Steve. "She was my accomplice in preparing the marriage license and making sure that it remained a surprise. She officiated our wedding and has helped us out with everything we needed after the wedding."

"It was so special and unique and it was just awesome how everything came together in a short amount of time," commented Tara.

The happy, and now wedded couple, departed the Island soon after, and they are still very much in love and continuing with their sailing adventures. Currently based in Turkey, preparing a yacht to be delivered to Tanzania, the couples own yacht Penn Station remains parked in Trinidad and Tobago.



‘Creating an enabling environment for economic development’

A look at the Ninth Meeting of Ministers Question Time

The ninth meeting of Minister’s Question Time was held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday, 30 January, from 10am. All questions were directed to Minister for Treasury and Economic Development Mark Brooks, although all Ministers had the opportunity to contribute. This week, The Sentinel covers questions concerning the use of the Equiano cable moving forward, financial support for the private sector and SHG’s investment in land.



“We have to move with the times”

Questions asked on Equiano Cable and future Island-wide Fibre Connectivity

Hannah Braaf, SAMS



Cllr Andrew Turner inquired about the steps being taken “to complete the St Helena Fibre Optic Network and allow the private sector to develop into the digital economy”.

“Back in May, when the Equiano cable was successfully landed and commissioned on the Island, we were left with a question of ‘how do we make the most of that cable’,” Minister Brooks responded. “Around October last year we decided to partner with the current internet service provider, which is Sure, to look at the benefits of enhancing the experience of the internet.”

“That enhancement ticked all three boxes, the main three boxes were cheaper, faster and unlimited,” Minister Brooks added. “Everyone worked very hard, including SHG and Sure’s representatives, in making the use of the cable a reality in a very short time frame.”

“Sure [agreed] to provide an enhanced package… up to 100 megabytes per second [by April 2024] for businesses that wanted this bespoke package,” Minister Brooks stated. “Currently, all the businesses that were connected to the telecommunications network that was on a business package are continuing to see improvements.”

“We still have to improve and, in the short term, [we are] working with Sure to enhance the experience for businesses that require a much higher speed than the residential packages,” Minister Brooks continued.

Cllr Turner then asked if Sure is now responsible for providing Island-wide connectivity, by means of the fibre optic cable.

“In the agreement that SHG made with Sure back in October, we will see some benefits to the cable,” Minister Brooks stated. “That will be the enhancement of all packages.”

However, according to Minister Brooks, this is not the “end goal”.

“It’s not that Sure is rolling out fibre optic all around the Island, they are taking care of their current customer’s needs,” Minister Brooks explained.

“Without going into too much detail, we are not in a position to talk about the long-term provision of the Equiano cable,” Chief Minister Thomas stated. “If we look at it at this present time, Sure has 18 months… to operate and develop the offering that we have.”

sure.

Cllr Robert Midwinter questioned if Island-wide connectivity, provided by the fibre optic cable, is still the goal.

"Yes, we'd like to be able to have the full advantage of the Equiano cable," Chief Minister Thomas stated. "Exactly how that's going to be delivered is something that I can't go into in any further detail at this present time, due to the sensitivity around it from a legal perspective. But it is definitely that we would wish that the fibre optic cable is more accessible, as we had envisaged it would be."

"I think we have to be really open to what is the future of telecommunications," Minister for Health and Social Care Martin Henry stated. "We can utilise that cable... but technology has moved well beyond that 10-year plan."

"There may not be any need to run a fibre optic cable around the entire Island because technology has moved beyond that point, so we have to consider every option moving forward," Minister Henry further stated. "We have to move with the times. I think it's really important that the next decisions moving forward incorporate everything that is available in terms of communications."



Enabling Private Sector Development

A look at "support mechanisms" for supporting business and investment

Cllr Gillian Brooks questioned Minister Mark Brooks on "support mechanisms" to "enable private sector," a question which also got responded to by Chief Minister Julie Thomas as the Minister for Education, Skills and Employment.

"Enterprise St Helena [ESH] was funded both by the SHG recurring budget and UKG funding," Minister Brooks stated. "I believe that, over the lifetime of the Enterprise, I think it was between 2013 and 2021... they had a total subsidy of £17million, which works out to about £2.2million a year."

"ESH closed in 2021 and SHG put in place a full time trade and investor post, which then formed a team, because we have an investor manager and an investment coordinator," Minister Brooks explained. "That was established to be the Island's senior point of contact for all business and investors who want to do business on or with St Helena."

"This team is led by Mike Ormrod; he's also supported by Kyle Snow," Minister Brooks continued. "They are available to assist businesses."

Cllr Rob Midwinter entered the conversation here, as someone who was involved with ESH.

"The subsidy for Enterprise St Helena was approximately £890,000 a year," Cllr Midwinter stated. "The reference made to the UK Government contribution was actually project programme funding, which should never be called a subsidy. It was funding for specific projects that were operated by Enterprise St Helena on behalf of the Island and cannot be considered a subsidy, and that was £1.1million to £1.3million a year."



Hannah Braaf, SAMS

"If we look at what we're trying to do since the closure of Enterprise St Helena, noting the financial strain which is on our precious resource - which is the financial side as well as human resource, if I'm honest - there is a lot more that this government is doing," Chief Minister Thomas stated. "From Minister Scipio's Portfolio, we've got the agricultural programme that's operating to try and kick-start and extend the agricultural business; we're improving our relationship with the Bank of St

Helena to be able to demonstrate what it is we can do to better cater for the business community; Minister Brooks has the tourism development fund that is looking at ways and means of trying to improve our offering here on St Helena, all of which is part of creating an enabling environment."

"I talk [in my 2023 Christmas message] about the priorities this year, which included the big ticket items, which is access - both air and shipping - renewable energy is something we're still working towards," Chief Minister Thomas further stated. "I know Minister Henry is doing all he can, in the circumstances that he operates in, to kick-start preventative care, because as far as we see it, that's the only way we can change the trajectory that we're on, [which is] very difficult to do when we're working within an ageing population. The primary school review, or the education review... is something that we'd like to also tackle in this coming year."

"Not having resources readily available is making it difficult when we're trying to prioritise as well, because we don't have the human resource to be able to get it done in a timely manner, how we would wish for it to be done," Chief Minister Thomas continued. "[This is] how it is, we're trying to operate so that we can make the cost of living on St Helena as affordable as possible. We can't say it's going to be cheaper because the whole world is under strain at the moment."

Cllr Dr Corinda Essex inquired as to financial assistance and concessions from SHG, especially concerning start-up businesses.

"There's the AIS, which is the Approved Investor Status," Minister Brooks responded. "It is the AIC that monitors that incentive. That obviously gives current business and new businesses... reduced customs duty, either to the tune of 0%, 5% or 10%, depending on the scoring."

"There is also a reduction in corporation tax," Minister Brooks stated. "If a business is successful and making good money in its first years... there's a reduction of 10%, from 25% corporation tax to 15% corporation tax."

"[In the regards to] the land disposal policy, there are concessions for reduced rents and charges for business that meet the objectives of the SEDP," Minister Brooks further stated.

"There's also support from our team," Minister Brooks continued. "I know that's not financial support exactly, but it's all helping to reduce the cost of setting up a business. If you look in today's world, even getting professional advice could cost quite a bit of money; we offer that for free."

"When we are able to share with the community of St Helena what is our branding and our messages and our marketing, they will understand the areas of priority," Chief Minister Thomas concluded. "That can then support in trying to promote what assistance is available, so I'm happy to speak to the communications team to see if we can compile a communications plan for that initiative."

"The prices we are selling for is market value"

A look at the breakdown in cost for serviced plots in Bottom Woods CDA



Hannah Braaf, SAMS

Cllr Karl Thrower questioned the prices put on serviced land, "considering that affordable housing is a key requirement when creating an enabling environment for economic development, how can the Government justify imposing fees of approximately £105,000 per acre for qualifying local residents and over £175,000 per acre for others interested in the housing plots at the Bottom Woods CDA?"

"The size of the plot includes services," Minister Brooks first explained. "If you can get eight of these plots in one acre, you also have to put in eight times the services if you want the true cost, because they are sold as a serviced plot."

"Each plot, just the land itself, cost £3,325," Minister Brooks stated. "I'd say around about that because each one has a slightly different size, so we'd work it out slightly different, with the most expensive being around £4,300."

"Then you put in the services, which is telecommunications, water, electricity and road," Minister Brooks further stated. "The cost for those services per plot is £18,000. Then you put in the professional fees, because Government took on a project team to run this CDA, and that team is relied on by Government's own works team... we still pay them a fee for doing the service for us per property and that fee works out at around £2,100 per plot."

"In total, each plot is costing government around £23,000 when you take in the services," Minister Brooks explained. "If you're purely basing it on the cost of the land, it is £3,000. What you need to do is times £3,000 by how many plots you would get into one acre... and that would work out to something around between £25,000 and £28,000 per plot."

Minister Brooks listed sales in the private sector of plots as a comparison, emphasising the fact that these plots sold in the private sector were unserviced, unlike the plots at the Bottom Woods CDA.

"A piece of land sold in 2022... for £20,000, and that was a mere 0.2 of an acre; in 2021, a plot sold in the private sector... for £26,000, that was slightly bigger at 0.3 of an acre," Minister Brooks stated. "Another plot sold in 2022 for £45,000 and that was 0.6 of an acre."

"When you look at what plots were being sold for in the private sector for unserviced land, it would seem that the prices we are selling for is market value," Minister Brooks further stated. "I would also point out that the one plot that was sold for around fourteen grand, which is the first-time buyer plot, actually cost us more to develop than what we're selling it for... we've put extra money onto the investor plots to try and recover the cost that we have subsidised for our own first-time



buyers."

"This site was developed and there was a lot of investment put into it by SHG," Minister Brooks continued. "The idea of that is to sell the plot, recover your investment and reinvest. That's how we get more government land or houses built, that's how we have more service plots available to sell on the market for first time buyers."

"These plots are very slow in being sold and I have spoken to my team about this, and my team has informed me that there has been an increase in interest over the Christmas period, when more Saints and returning relatives were home," Minister Brooks added. "I have instructed my team to let this play out for a few more months and then we'll re-evaluate the situation at that time, which might result in some different costing to these plots."

"No private sector developments are coming forward and taking on these big projects, so it is the government who find themselves, almost by default, trying to enable economic development through the sale of housing," Minister Brooks stated. "We need to do it sustainably, we don't have an endless pot of money. If we don't make back that investment, we don't have any more money to invest."

"It has to be a balanced approach, it can't be all in the favour of the development, it needs to be in favour of this community and this island and our environment," Minister Brooks further stated. "There are people out there that might be, right now, working on development, but if that development does not suit this community or this Island or this government's vision moving forward, then there are going to be problems, there are going to be discussions around that."

"There are private sector development that have already happened in the past, so some people have done this, some people have invested in government land, they've built property and they sell it," Minister Brooks continued. "It's a good business."

St Helena Government

CHANGES TO PUBLIC BUSSERVICES

Existing contracts for the delivery of public bus services with Joshua's Taxis and Colin's Garage will come to an end at the end of this month, having been in place since March 2016.

For several months SHG has been in discussions with current and potential providers to ensure that services continue after the end of February.

As a result, Colin's Garage will continue to provide the Sandy Bay (Route E) and Blue Hill (Route F) services.

Negotiations are ongoing with transport operators for services for the Longwood, Levelwood and St Pauls/Half Tree Hollow areas. Whilst it is expected that arrangements for these routes will be secured, it is possible that we will see a reduced level of service on them from 1 March 2024.

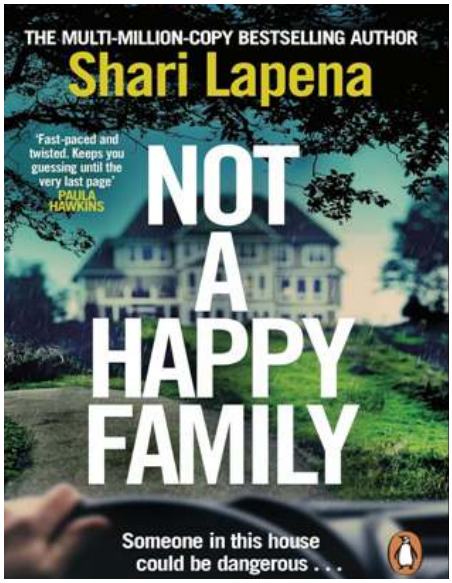
Further press releases will be issued with details of the services that will be available from 1 March 2024 once negotiations have been concluded.

#StHelena #PublicBusService

SHG, 14 February 2024

Book of the Week

Public Library Service



In this family, everyone is keeping secrets - even the dead.

In the quiet, wealthy enclave of Brecken Hill, an older couple is brutally murdered hours after a tense Easter dinner with their three adult children. Who, of course, are devastated.

Or are they? They each stand to inherit millions. They were never a happy family, thanks to their vindictive father and neglectful mother, but perhaps one of them is more disturbed than anyone knew. Did someone snap after that dreadful evening? Or did another person appear later that night with the worst of intentions? That must be what happened. After all, if one of the family were capable of something as gruesome as this, you'd know.

Wouldn't you?

Please reserve by contacting the following:-
Telephone Number: 22580
Email: publiclibrary@helanta.co.sh

An "elegant visitor" to St Helena Airport

Gulfstream G550 lands at St Helena for pickup





Donna Crowie, SAMS

On Monday, St Helena Airport welcomed to St Helena what they described as an "elegant visitor" with a Gulfstream G550 touching down at the Airport.

The aircraft made a quick stop to St Helena to collect members of the Bad Company Fishing Adventure team that had travelled to St Helena via the Airlink flight from Ascension Island last Sunday, following their time providing services on Ascension.

The Last Ride!

MV Maria on her way to St Helena for Final Voyage



Donna Crowie, SAMS

The Maria da Paz departed Cape Town on Monday, 12 February, at around 1.30pm, heading for St Helena for her final voyage to the Island as our Interim Shipping Service Provider, via Meihuizen International.

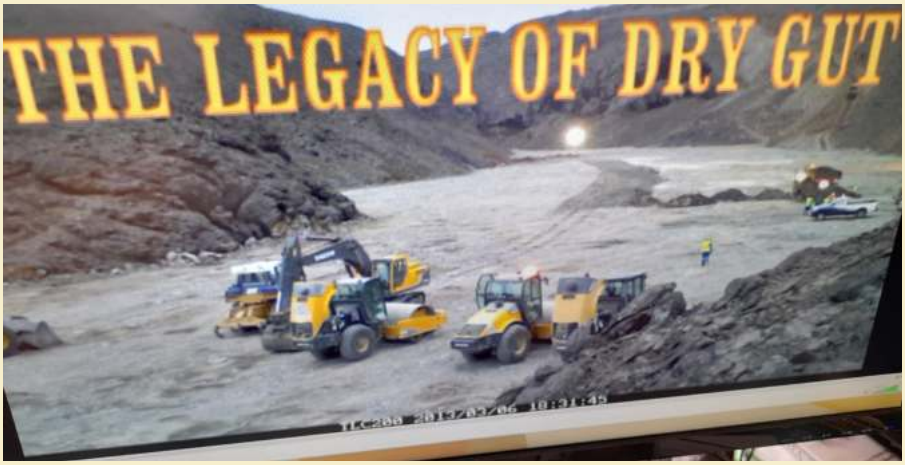
According to Marine Traffic, the Maria da Paz will arrive to St Helena on Monday, 19 February, at 6am. Due to this being her final voyage, she will take the backlog of empty containers with her upon her departure.

Port Control advised the public that due to the impending arrival of the MV Maria, the Jamestown Wharf was closed on Wednesday, 14 February, between 8am and 4pm "to enable Port Control to relocate all empty containers in preparation" for her arrival.

The Legacy of Dry Gut

Short film on Airport Construction currently available on Local TV

Tony Leo, Contributed



St Helena Airport has become a popular place to visit, with a number of Islanders regularly driving out to watch the landing and taking off of aircraft, as well as to bid farewell to or welcome family and friends.

However, with the Airport now up and running, and having been in operation for a few years, we all tend to take for granted the massive project that involved the building of St Helena Airport. We don't talk about the large-scale construction, or about the people involved in the enormous contract of starting off from scratch when a hill was a hill and a valley was that deep.

The building of St Helena Airport is the biggest project to take place in St Helena's recent history.

I understand the scale of this project as I was the person tasked with filming the entire project at the very beginning when the first two contract members from Basil Read arrived on-Island.

All archived footage is owned by the contractors Basil Read Ltd, but there were periods during the construction, when certain parts were released for broadcast on local TV.

Toward the end of the project, Charles Schwarz, Chief of Human Resources, and myself, Tony Leo, as cameraman, came to the conclusion that some of this material should be shown to the public as so many people were involved in this massive project.

It was therefore decided to produce a special short film for local TV, but not to be sold, for which I co-produced.

Currently, on the local TV channel, this film is being shown for a month in the hope that many can view and see what was involved, the people who worked throughout the project, and will therefore hopefully come to appreciate the work that actually went into creating what we have today - a successful project of a commercial Airport that is often used.

The film coincides with the unveiling of the plaque by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh recently.

Enjoy the film!

Beef Wellington for Two

A romantic twist on the classic beef wellington, these pretty heart-adorned parcels serve two; perfect for an impressive Valentine's Day dinner. Top blushing, tender steaks with a flavourful mushroom mix and ham, all wrapped in golden puff pastry. Serve with steamed green vegetables.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 mushrooms, roughly chopped
- ½ small red onion, finely chopped
- 1 tsp mustard
- 2 tbsp fresh chopped parsley
- 2 x 170g beef fillet steaks, seasoned
- 2 slices lean ham
- 375g pack ready rolled puff pastry
- 1 egg, beaten, to glaze

Method

1. Preheat the oven to gas 6, 200°C, fan 180°C. Heat 1 tbsp of the oil in a medium frying pan and cook the mushrooms and onion for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally until soft and golden. Stir in the mustard and parsley, then transfer to a plate and set aside to cool slightly.
2. Return the pan to the heat and heat the remaining oil until piping hot. Add the seasoned steaks and cook for 30 seconds on each side to seal. Set aside.
3. Unroll the pastry and halve along its width to produce two rectangles. From the top corner of each of the rectangles, cut out a small heart shape using a 4-5cm heart-shaped cutter, or draw a small 4 cm heart shape on a piece of paper and use as a guide. Set aside the pastry hearts.
4. Place the steaks in the centre of the shortest end of the pastry, about 4cm from the edge. Divide the mushroom mixture on top and press down to compact. Lay a slice of ham on top to enclose the filling.
5. Lightly brush the edges of the pastry with water, then fold over to enclose the steak and stuffing. Press down to seal, then use a sharp knife to cut away the excess pastry, leaving a good 2cm of sealed edge. To help seal the pastry, press the tines of a fork into the border, then tap the edges with the blade of a knife held horizontally to rough up the edges.
6. Use beaten egg to stick on the pastry hearts. Then brush all over with beaten egg, place on a baking tray and chill for 15 minutes. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 mins. Set aside to rest for 5 mins then serve with green vegetables.



Solomon's Sustaining St Helena's Environment One Year On

Bring Your Bag initiative prevents 68,000 single-use plastic carriers from entering the environment

Demy Herne, SAMS



It was back on Tuesday, 3 January 2023, that Solomon & Company (St Helena) plc ceased the sale of single-use plastic carriers in their outlets before kick-starting the #BYB or 'Bring your Bag' campaign, encouraging shoppers to bring their own shopping bags when shopping in any Solomon's outlet.

In the first year, this initiative resulted in Solomon's saving around 68,000 single-use plastic carriers from entering the environment.

As can be expected, Solomon's admit that at first it was difficult when ceasing the sale of single-use plastic bags, but looking back at the success of the campaign in just one year, Solomon's are thankful to everyone who stood by the scheme and brought their own bags

Solomon's say they remain dedicated to honouring its purpose of serving customers through a sustainable business for the benefit of the company and the Island as a whole.

Vacancy

Ad Hoc Grocery Sales Assistants

Rate of pay will be £3.87 per hour.

We are seeking Ad-Hoc Grocery Sales Assistants within the Half Tree Hollow Supermarket to support the operation as and when required, including Sunday work.

As a Grocery Sales Assistant you will be required to assist with the day-to-day running of the Supermarket and to ensure a high standard of customer service.

Interested Persons Should:

- Possess knowledge & skills of Food Safety
- Be customer focused and target driven with excellent customer service skills
- Be competent in Maths, English and IT
- Possess experience in Cash Handling, ideally including use of the EPoS till and payment by local debit card
- Be self-motivated and able to work well as part of a team
- Be able to undertake physically demanding and manual handling duties

Please note that relevant training will be provided.

To register your interest or for further information contact the Human Resources Department via email hradmin@solomons.co.sh or by calling 22380, by Friday, 23 February 2024.

Equality and Human Rights Commission

FEBRUARY 2023

This February we will be celebrating World Day of Social Justice on the 20 February.

What is Social Justice?

Social justice is equality in terms of the distribution of opportunities, and privileges within a society.

Positive impacts on social justice - It's essentially a concept of fairness within a society. That applies to fairness in opportunities be it in acquiring wealth, basic needs, and more.

Negative impacts - Social injustice can result in missed opportunities regarding education, work, housing, healthcare, and more. In addition, a person who experiences unequal access in just one of these levels may experience a cascade of difficulties in the other areas as a result.

Social justice and human rights have a shared goal: human dignity, equality for all. The issues that make social justice difficult to achieve, such as poverty, exclusion and discrimination are in direct contradiction with human rights, which apply to all individuals indiscriminately.

In St Helena we are striving for equal opportunities for both girls and boys, men and women, we are all looking forward to having affordable things, like food, shelter and internet so that everyone can benefit from them.

Show your care, let's all be fair.

Social justice for all.

Equality & Human rights, Napoleon Street Jamestown: contact no: 22133

SAMS RADIO 1 SCHEDULE

SAMS Radio 1

102.7 (Jamestown) • 90.5 (High Knoll) • 105.1 (Sunberry) • 105.3 (Blue Hill)
Streaming live via www.sams.sh/radio.html

FRI. Feb 16
- 7am -10am: Sunrise show with Luke Bennett
- 10am : Legislative Council Meeting
- 2pm: Our Show
- 5:30-7pm: OUT OUT! with Liam

SAT. Feb 17
- 9am-12 Noon: Saturday Show with Demy Herne
- 1pm-3pm: The Northward Sounds with Tony Leo
- 3-5pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie
- 6-8pm: DNA Show (Repeat)
- 8pm: Mixed Tape Show with Hannah Braaf

SUN. Feb 18
- 7am-noon: Sunday Show with Liam Yon
- 1pm: Interveiw Hour
- 3-4pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne
- 5pm : In Scope - Treasury
- 7pm: Anglican Church Service

MON. Feb 19
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke Bennett
- 2pm-4pm:DNA with Deon and Anita
- 5:30pm-7pm: Country Classic's with Donna Crowie

TUE. Feb 20
- 7am-9am: Morning Show with Donna
- 9am - 11am: Midday Show with Demy Herne
- 2pm: In Scope
- 5-7pm: UK Chart Show with Demy Herne

WED. Feb 21
- 7am: Midweek Morning Show with Deon
- 8:30-10:30am: Our Show
- 11am-1pm: The Northward sounds with Tony Leo
- 1pm-3pm: 1548 with Ferdie
- 4-7pm: Afternoon Drive with Luke Bennett
- 7:30pm- Mixed Tape Show with Hannah Braaf

THU. Feb 22
- 7am-10am: Sunrise with Luke and Liam
- 11am: Midday show with Hannah Braaf
- 1pm : Afternoon show with Demy Herne
- 5-7pm: Modern Country Chart with Donna Crowie

Reach us on ***22727*** or at ***news@sams.sh***

sure
Bringing you the
BBC World Service
100.7 (Briars)
88.1 (High Knoll)
102.7 (Blue Hill)

Featured this Week





Yeeehaaaww!!!!

We are going country!

Join SAMS Radio 1 for a brand new show where Donna will be sharing those good old country tunes.

Listen in from 5:30pm every Monday.

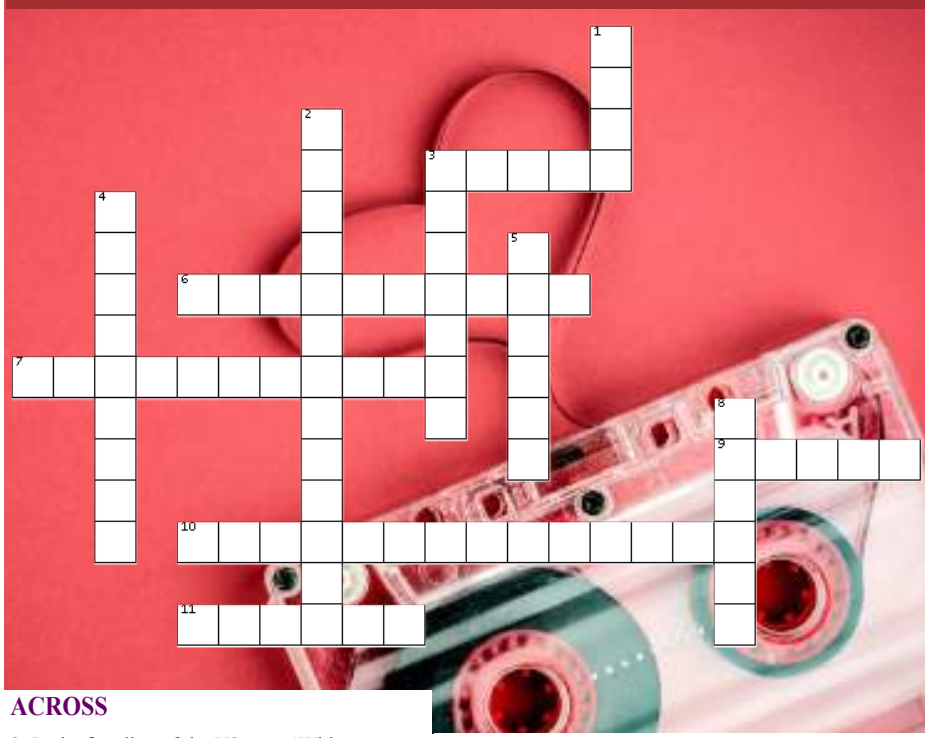
That's when we'll be putting on the boots and cowboy hats - going Classic Country!

Yeeehaaaww!!!!

Local news and notices:
7am, 10am, noon, 5pm, 7pm, 10pm



Crossword: LOVE SONGS



ACROSS

3. In the first line of the U2 song 'With or Without You' what do we see "set in your eyes"?
6. "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" is a song by Aerosmith and was the theme song for what 1998 movie?
7. Who made the charts with an old Supremes song, 'You Can't Hurry Love'? (4,7)
9. In the first line of the Bon Jovi song 'Always' who was bleeding?
10. What superstar had an early 90s hit with 'I Will Always Love You'? (7,7)
11. 'Nothing Compares 2 U' is a song famously sang by Sinead O'Connor, but what superstar wrote the song?

DOWN

1. What kind of "Bites" provided Def Leppard with a number one hit single?
2. Who had a number one hit with 'When A Man Loves A Woman'? (7,6)
3. Pop duo Roxette performed the hit love song 'Must have been love', what is the nationality of the group?
4. What was the name of the band that sang 'I Want to Know What Love Is'?
5. Berlin's 'Take my breath away' was the song that featured for what 1986 film starring Tom Cruise? (3,3)
8. The Beatles 'All You Need Is Love' from the 60s began with what National Anthem?

Famous Birthday on 14th Feb



FREDDIE HIGHMORE (31)

Sentinel Joke of the day

Her: "I love you."
Him: "Is that you or the wine talking?"
Her: "It's me... talking to the wine."

Rebus Puzzle: *Figure out the phrase*





Funny Valentines stories



"I met my husband while I was working in a science library. He came in every week to read the latest journals and eventually decided to take out the librarian instead of the books. After a year and a half of dating, he showed up at the library and started rummaging through my desk. I asked what he was looking for, but he didn't answer. Finally he unearthed one of the rubber stamps I used to identify reference books. 'Since I couldn't find the right engagement ring,' he said, 'this will have to do,' and he firmly stamped my hand. Across my knuckles, in capital letters, it read NOT FOR CIRCULATION."

"My high-school English teacher was well known for being a fair, but hard, grader. One day I received a B minus on a theme paper. In hopes of bettering my grade and in the spirit of the Valentine season, I sent her an extravagant heart-shaped box of chocolates with the pre-printed inscription: "BE MINE." The following day, I received in return a Valentine from the teacher. It read: Thank you, but it's still BE MINE-US.'"

Last week's Crossword Answers
Romantic Comedys

DOWN
2. You've Got Mail
3. Bianca
4. Hawaii
5. Meet The Parents
7. Singapore

ACROSS
1. Marry
8. Alaska
9. Wedding Ring
10. Seattle
11. Mark Darcy
12. Katherine Heigl
8. Hawaii

Rebus Answers:

1. Happy Hour; 2. Penny for your thought

IN SCOPE: RECAPPED

In Scope: Treasury and Economic Development



Focus on the new Sustainable Economic Development Strategy

Anita Robbertse, SAMS

Minister Mark Brooks was joined by Portfolio director, Damian Burns, on In Scope this week to update listeners on the new Sustainable Economic Development Strategy, which will replace the 2018 Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP). The new strategy has already been presented to the cabinet and elected members and will soon be communicated to the public.

The creation of a new strategy was deemed necessary, as there had been many changes since the implementation of the previous plan, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the start of the ministerial system, changes to the infrastructure on Island, as well as the connecting of the fibre optic cable. The new strategy have been aligned with the Minister's vision for St Helena: "To create an enabling environment that allows people and businesses to thrive while preserving what makes St Helena unique and to improve how SHG delivers services as a government."

The strategy has two main goals focussing on reversing two trends or problems facing St Helena, namely the declining working-age population and the decline in the collection of domestic revenue. The strategy will work towards increasing the working-age population, as well as increasing the proportion of revenue collected by Government on increased economic activity. This ten year strategy will aim to meet these goals through set objectives, but it is important to note that the private sector will play a very big role in the success of this strategy as it is ultimately private sector that drives economic growth. Government will aim to work as an enabler assisting the private sector in driving economic growth in the future.

The population decline is the biggest existential crisis the Island is facing at the moment, as this decline reduces the aggregate demand in economic activities and it lowers the potential for economy of scale. This means that with a decline in demand, businesses have a smaller customer base over which to spread costs and this will drive up prices. This will also impact the public purse, as the burden of dependency ratios will increase. The population decline also impacts productivity, as there is a smaller pool of candidates and often a decrease in available skills.

The delivery plan to address these negative impacts will not only be the responsibility of the Economic Development section, but will require a combined effort from all portfolios. The delivery plan has been divided into six key objectives. All SHG actions will be aligned to these going forward as well as decision-making and implementation of actions. All objectives have an equal weight and no one will be pursued at the cost of any other.

The first objective is to have an open and accessible Island to people, culture and finance. Underpinning this objective is the aim to be open to business and capital investment. There is a need to attract investment to grow the economy to improve the lives of residents. Businesses will need land, buildings and equipment to grow and expand. These needs will be accommodated in the new land purchase and disposal policy. SHG are also looking at reducing the barriers to people and organisations to invest in St Helena. Processes will have to be made clearer, simpler and quicker. Welcoming new cultures on St Helena is a part of what the new immigration policy will try to address. To attract investors, stable and predictable air and sea access is needed as well as digital connectivity. Constant improvements to all these have to be undertaken on a constant basis. SHG will have to ensure that the Island is globally connected and aligned to ensure that international trade and communication can be conducted.

The second objective is to have an open, productive Island through increasing productivity, labour force participation and capital investment. This productivity is related to three areas: labour force, capital (money and equipment) and land. On Island, there will have to be a drive to decrease wastage and increase productivity as well as international and local trade. The best way going forward will be to increase capital investment and attracting more skilled people to work and live on St Helena. If the capital base is expanded, businesses will be able to raise profitability. SHG will be encouraging and supporting businesses that will add value at all the stages of product processing. Government will also review their policy for fair business procedures and competition to set clear guidelines.

Objective number three relates to St Helena's branding: A Breath of Fresh Air. This objective will look at preserving what makes St Helena unique. Although it is recognised that economic growth cannot take place without development, it is vitally important to balance this with the protection of our environment. The Island's natural environment is a valuable asset in growing the economy and development should not take place at the cost of conservation. Another area to consider is the importance of cherishing, preserving and promoting our unique history.

The fourth objective is to have a united Island and ensuring that everybody shares in the benefits of growth. Economic growth and the increase in Government revenue should benefit all sectors of society. Another aspect to guard against is a digital divide. With faster and more affordable internet

and all the benefits this brings it is important to ensure that everyone has access to these benefits thorough interventions by SHG and other stakeholders where needed. Effective regulation will also be something to put in place for telecommunications, and this will form part of the new telecommunications ordinance, as well as a regulatory system that will ensure fairness and protection.

Objective five relates to the provision of an effective infrastructure to support economic growth. This will include physical infrastructure, as well as softer infrastructure like the updating of laws and regulations relating to things like data protection, competition, bankruptcy and corporate Government rules. These are also essential to stimulate and encourage growth together with the continued development of physical infrastructure like the ports and roads. A lot of these projects are currently being funded and managed through the EDIP but the focus of these needs to be on projects that will enhance economic growth.

The last objective is to be a better Government and facilitate business. It is recognised that some of the policies and processes within Government is slow and inefficient. Under the new plan there will be a drive to clarify and simplify procedures. SHG also realises that they need to take the lead in moving forward into the new digital era by making use of the increased access to the internet. One of the things that will be looked at is creating direct digital accessibility, but this will take a lot of time and skill to set up. Another area SHG is looking at is the vast amount of land and buildings owned by government. These take up a lot of resources to maintain and manage. Over the following twelve months, there will be a focus on the property and land disposal policy which will aim to make properties available to potential tenants and inventors. This will lower SHG's liability and maintenance costs while ensuring that these properties can be utilised more productively by the private sector.

As opposed to the previous SEDP, which focused on a broad spectrum of economic sectors for economic growth, the new strategy will follow a different approach by focusing more on creating an enabling environment for the private sector. SHG will provide guidelines as to which industries would be best suited for St Helena and providing support where needed.

Various sectors have been included in this strategy, including tourism. Currently this industry is being supported through the Tourism Development Program. Government have already invested a lot of capital into developing this sector and, although they will continue to support this sector, they aim to divest themselves from their interests in this sector over a period of time. There will always be some challenges for St Helena in this area and the ED section are reviewing the objectives for the tourism industry to determine what would be realistic goals for the tourism sector on island.

The new approach to the agriculture sector will move away from the focus on import substitution to ensuring that the available land is utilised to the maximum and making the most possible revenue, while also reinvesting into business. It is important that products be available to the consumer at the lowest possible price and this will sometimes be imported goods. The importance of growth and increased profit margins will form an integral part to the new approach by encouraging this sector to produce the highest value goods possible.

Fisheries are always a very important sector of potential economic growth on St Helena. This is one of the island's biggest resources and a lot of investment has already started in this area where businesses are working to add value to the Island's export product in the fisheries sector.

Another sector identified as a potential area for growth is the promotion of uniquely St Helenian products, souvenirs and woodcraft. These products need to be available and should be promoted, supported and recognised for the unique contribution they make to the economy. Together with this is another specialised area of revenue in the sale of numismatic and philatelic collectibles (coins and stamps). This revenue stream is being marketed through platforms that cater to collectors. The domain name (.sh) is another stream of revenue that contributes in the region of £150,000. Additional digital products will be explored as well as niche products that can create more revenue in this area. The option of marketing the Island as a filming destination is also being explored. Satellite ground stations and digital infrastructure are also areas that can be explored with the availability of the cable and, as part of this, the One Web project is already in progress.

Two of the most lucrative areas of growth that is being explored are professional services and remote working, as well as the modernising of financial services and company law. The new connectivity could attract professionals and remote workers to settle on St Helena and could include options like administrative services, call centres, legal and accounting services. There are positives on St Helena that need to be marketed to this sector, like the use of English, the GMT time zone, the use of a Sterling equivalent and strong labour legislation. The modernising of financial services will start with BOSH and will look also at the reforming of financial services laws and regulations. Government is also looking to update the company registry as the current format is quite rudimentary. Company law will play a key role as a driver in stimulating economic growth. This area also provides the option to offer niche products as part of the registry service.

There are some incentives and enablers that are available through Government to encourage and support anyone interested in starting a new business or expanding a current business by adding a new work stream. The main aim of the strategy is to create and enabling environment, but it is recognised that challenges might require more support in starting up a business. If anyone is in need of some support they can contact the Trade and Investment Team who are serving as the single point of contact for potential new businesses. SHG is also providing some financial assistance in the form of the approved investor scheme. Businesses will be scored through a matrix and allocated a status of A, B or C. Depending on the rating, businesses will be given varying levels of relief on import duties that have to be paid on the importation of capital goods. There is also a possibility of a reduction in corporate taxes during the first three years of setting up a business, where approved businesses will qualify to have profit taxes reduced from the current 25% to 15%.

Damian said that Government recognises that the Island is in a difficult situation, but the ED team believes that they have designed the best possible strategy to make St Helena a better place to live, work and do business, while still taking into account the limited resources available and making the best use of this.

Orange Tree Restaurant

Chef required for general duties. Please apply to Daisy Terry on Telephone 22126.

NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Tourism Officer (1- year Fixed Term) (£13,948 per annum)

Tourism is one of St Helena's key economic drivers.
Are you a highly motivated individual looking for a career change or to progress your career? Do you have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to develop productive relationships with tourism stakeholders? If so, the Economic Development Portfolio has an opportunity for you to join their team in the Tourism Section. You will be primarily involved in providing island information to visitors, but also involved in promotions, marketing and product development, raising awareness about the island whilst ensuring its attractions and services are improved to help ensure a quality visitor experience.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Matthew Joshua on Tel No 22158
Closing date: 27 February 2024

Receptionist (£6,643 per annum)

Do you have excellent verbal communication and customer care skills and the ability to deal with customers from diverse backgrounds either by telephone or in person? If so, Central Support Services is seeking to recruit a Receptionist to be based at Essex House. You will be the first point of contact for all visitors, ensuring a positive and professional environment for the reception point. In addition to answering the telephone, directing and screening calls as necessary, you will be required to welcome visitors, direct them to their correct destination, maintain an awareness of staff movements in and out of the site, monitor visitor access and maintain security awareness.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Carol Henry on Tel No 22470
Closing date: 19 February 2024

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, according to grade, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

To access job profiles and application forms online, visit www.sainthelena.gov.sh/government/vacancies Alternatively, these are available in paper format from Central Human Resources and Organisational Development at The Castle, Jamestown.

For further information, please contact the recruitment team on telephone number **22470** or via the email address below.

Applications should be submitted to the Human Resources Officer by email recruitment@sainthelena.gov.sh or paper copies delivered to the Human Resources Officer by the closing date.

To be considered for our vacancies, you must complete our application form. Please do not submit your CV.

SHG positively accepts applications from all members of the community, regardless of age, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief and will consider all applications on the basis of merit assessed against the role profile and person specification. All appointments are subject to the successful candidate providing satisfactory clearances, which include a medical check, vetting / DBS clearance and references. SHG reserves the right to have information provided on or with the application independently verified. Benefits are subject to change and may vary according to role.

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting…

St Helena Government

Community Nurse (£11,542 per annum)

Are you a highly motivated individual looking for a career change or to progress your career? If so, The Health & Social Care Portfolio has an opportunity for you to join their team. The Community Nurse will manage a caseload of patients under the direction of the Sister or Community Nursing Officer. Working within the community either at the District Clinics or in the patient's home. Deliver Nursing Care as part of a team. Will support the Sister in the delivery of an efficient/effective nursing service and has responsibility for assessment, planning, delivery and evaluation of care. The occasional out of normal working hours will be expected for clients at home needing palliative care and end of life care.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Jackie Henry on Tel No 22500
Closing date: 27 February 2024

Sea Rescue Crew (Coxswain) (Starting at £9,197 per annum)

Are you keen to improve the lives of all within our community and help the island thrive by protecting and saving lives at sea? If you are a highly motivated and enthusiastic individual with the ability to remain calm under extreme physical and mental pressure, then the St Helena Sea Rescue Service has an opportunity for you to join their team.

Applicants must be 18 years of age, Must be able to swim and pass a fitness test.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Leeroy Caswell (leeroy.caswell@helanta.co.sh) or Mark Caswell (mark.caswell@helanta.co.sh) on 25215

Closing date: 27 February 2024

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, according to grade, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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NOTICE BOARD

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

Vocational Instructor (Building Maintenance) (£10,218 - £11,035)

Are you interested in working with young people and want to be a part of shaping their future? Then join the team and become a Vocational Instructor at PAS. You will be responsible for planning, preparing and effectively delivering programmes of study in Building Construction to designated classes in KS4 and KS5, catering for all abilities of students. You must have the required qualifications and demonstrable experience/skills, must have experience in IT applications, be committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people, have good communication skills and be able to interact with students, parents and colleagues.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Isabel Andrews on Tel no: 24290
Closing date: 27 February 2024

GIS Topographical Surveyor (£9,197 per annum)

Do you have experience and knowledge of surveying and would like to join the GIS team within Central Support Services? Well this is your opportunity. There is a vacancy for a GIS Topographical Surveyor who will be responsible for managing topographic surveys for the development of geospatial data of physical infrastructure, utility services and topography. You will also support development of the St Helena Environmental Information System (SHEIS), including providing support to GIS Users and promoting the use of GIS throughout SHG.

Contact us for more information and a discussion.

Enquiries: Devlin Yon on Tel No 22270
Closing date: 19 February 2024

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum, according to grade, plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

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Join us!

We are recruiting...

St Helena Government

JOIN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

HR Manager

(£26,341 - £29,129 per annum based on experience)

About the role:
This is a unique opportunity to carry out an interesting and varied role, supporting and leading a busy HR team across all aspects of its Public Service-wide responsibilities. The role will add value and further enhance capacity and delivery capability to a highly committed and engaged HR team, which operates within well-defined HR policy and practice and to a clearly defined business partnering model.

What you'll do:
Reporting to the Head of HR and Organisational Development, and responsible for line managing the HR Business Partners, you will have accountability for ensuring the consistent, smooth and efficient running of the HR operational function. This spans all areas of HR, including recruitment, employee relations case work, contracts, projects, pay and reward and everything required to deliver an efficient HR service for the Public Service of approximately 900 employees. We work in a friendly and positive environment, and as the manager of the business partner function, you will also work closely with other senior team members in employee relations, policy, learning and development and organisational development. You will support the Head of HR and Organisational Development in the delivery of some key projects, acting as their deputy when required and taking the lead in any complex operational or legal matters as they arise. The successful candidate will bring a strong background of managing a full HR function, will be able to add value and knowledge to the existing skillset, and will be willing to work across all aspects of HR to enhance the capacity of the team.

What you'll bring:
You'll be an experienced HR generalist with significant demonstrable HR delivery experience, ideally in a medium- to large-sized organisation, leading an HR team of HR professionals / business partners. You'll be up-to-date with UK employment legislation (from which St Helena employment regulations derive, with some local differences) and best practice. The ability to motivate, lead and develop other HR professionals is essential as is building credibility with other Public Service officers. You will be flexible, adaptable, resilient and able to work in a positive but demanding environment, leading on change processes as required, engaging with a wide range of stakeholders at all levels across the Public Service and Government. Please contact us for a Job Profile.

Enquiries: **Carolyn Nutkins on carolyn.nutkins@sainthelena.gov.sh**
Closing date: **Friday 01 March 2024**

Benefits

Leave – 30 days leave per annum plus public holidays

Pension – 15% pension contribution by SHG into approved defined contribution pension scheme

Training and Development

Paid sickness absence

How to apply

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NOTICE BOARD

DIOCESE OF SAINT HELENA

The Parish of St Paul's		
Sunday 18th February 2024 – 1st Sunday in Lent		
8.00 a.m.	Eucharist	Cathedral
9.30 a.m.	Reserved Sacrament	St Martin
11.00 a.m.	Reserved Sacrament/Parade	St Andrew
5.00 p.m.	Choral Evensong	Cathedral
The Parish of St James		
Sunday 18th February 2024 – 1st Sunday in Lent		
9.30 a.m.	Eucharist	St James
	Thursday 22nd February	
7.00 p.m.	Mass with Healing	St John
The Parish of St Matthew		
Sunday 18th February – 1st Sunday in Lent		
11.15 a.m.	Eucharist	St Mark
3.30 p.m.	Eucharist	Barnabas, Levelwood
	Tuesday 20th February	
7.00 p.m.	Eucharist	St Mark



Governor's Office
St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

The following item is for sale by tender:

Belling Double Oven and 5 Hob Gas Cooker

This item is being sold on an 'as is' basis with no warranty or guarantee given.

Viewings is set to take place on **Tuesday, 27th February between 12:00-13:00 at the Briars Pavilion**. Interested persons should contact the Manager of the Governor's Office, Kerry Lane on telephone 22308 ahead of this time to register your interest.

Offers should be sent to Kerry.Lane@fcdo.gov.uk by: **12:00noon** on **Wednesday, 28th February 2024.**

Collection of the item must take place by: **12:00noon on Thursday, 29th February 2024 following prompt payment and presentation of proof of payment.**





Governor's Office, St Helena
12th February 2024

CONSTITUENCY MEETINGS FEBRUARY AND MARCH

Councillors are hosting another round of constituency meetings in February and March. This round of constituency meetings will be attended by all seven councillors and all five ministers.

Topics that will be discussed in detail are Budgets, Air access and shipping, and Capital infrastructure

These meetings are also an opportunity to raise any issues that you may have that fall outside of the topics listed.

The constituency meetings will start at 7:30pm and will be held on the following dates at the locations listed.

Date	Venue	Chairperson
Mon 19 Feb	Sandy Bay Community Centre	Cllr Turner
Thu 22 Feb	HTH Community Centre	Cllr Coleman
Tue 27 Feb	St Michael's Church, Rupert's	Cllr G Brooks
Thu 29 Feb	Harford Community Centre	Cllr Bargo
Mon 4 Mar	Kingshurst Community Centre	Cllr Midwinter
Wed 6 Mar	Jamestown Community Centre	Cllr G Brooks
Thu 7 Mar	Blue Hill Community Centre	Cllr Turner

Please note that the constituency meeting due to be held on Wednesday 21 February at the Half Tree Hollow Community Centre has moved to Thursday 22 February.

Councillors are looking forward to your participation.

Legislative Council, 13 February 2024

ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT

Nurse / Physiotherapy Nurse

Total package value up to maximum of £35,392 pa

(comprising salary in a range from £16,780 pa to £21,525 depending on qualifications and experience, plus food and utilities allowances based on family size plus free housing and other benefits- details below)

About the role

We are looking for an experienced nurse to join our friendly, passionate and hard-working nursing team at Georgetown Hospital on Ascension Island. Living and working in Ascension presents a unique opportunity for you to deliver your professional role in this challenging but fascinating environment.

What you'll do

As part of the nursing team at Georgetown Hospital you will be working with our two Doctors and the rest of the hospital team to provide patient care and support to all the residents of Ascension Island. You will be on a rota with your colleagues to work 37.5 hours a week which includes some night shifts as well as work at weekends and public holidays. Specifically, the role involves clinical nursing duties on a cycle of morning, afternoon and night shifts such that a night shift can be expected once every 5 days.

What you'll bring

You will be a qualified nurse who understands and works to the NMC Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses and Midwives. We are particularly interested in receiving applications from people with physiotherapy experience and qualifications in addition to general nursing practice, as the role is planned to include duties as a physio assistant, working under the supervision of a visiting physiotherapist. Successful candidates will be expected to be prepared to undergo limited physiotherapy training for this purpose. To thrive here you will need to be resilient, adaptable and able to operate successfully in a very small, remote and diverse community.

What we offer

In addition to an annual salary in a range from £16,780 to £21,525 (depending on qualifications and experience and taxable on Ascension), the role attracts a two-year **accompanied** status contract (partner and children can come with you) and the following allowances and benefits:

- Rent free accommodation valued at up to £3000 pa (taxable benefit)
- An accompanied status food allowance £7,200 pa or £3,600pa if single (taxable benefit)
- An electricity allowance paid in kind worth £938 pa
- An accompanied status water allowance worth £2729 paid in kind (£1,360 pa if single)
- Relocation costs for your personal effects from your home country and assistance with shipment of a vehicle
- One mid-contract return journey to your country of recruitment
- A gratuity payable on the successful completion of a 2-year contract
- 30 days' annual holiday (with 9 days public holidays paid in addition to salary)
- Free primary dental and medical care
- Free annual travel insurance

The appointment will be subject to:

- Satisfactory employment references
- Enhanced Criminal Records Check
- Satisfactory Medical, Psychrometric, and Dental Clearance

Closing date: 10 March 2024
Interviews: from 18 March 2024 (via video call if off island)
Start date: As soon as possible.

For more information, a full job description, and to apply, visit:
www.ascension.gov.ac/lifestyle-and-employment/working-here/
If you have any questions about the role, email: recruitment@ascension.gov.ac

NOTICE BOARD

Upcoming Cruise Ships
Register of interest

St Helena will have two cruise ships calling back-to-back at the end of February: the MSC Poesia on the 27th, and Azamara Pursuit on the 28th.

The Poesia is set to bring over 2,000 visitors to St Helena, the Azamara over 700. Collectively the island could experience around 3,000 visitors over two days, plus crew.

Both these cruise ships present fantastic opportunities for local businesses, and a chance for organisations to showcase their work.

The Grand Parade and Mule Yard will be set up to accommodate the sale of souvenirs, food, beverage and other items, and provide entertainment on the 27th and 28th.

If you would like to book a space under the marquee or gazebos on the Grand Parade or in the Mule Yard, or set up another stall (e.g. in front of the Canister, or in the Market), please register your interest with the Tourist Office no later than Wednesday, 21 February 2024 on 22158 or email matthew.joshua@sainthelena.gov.sh. Spots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

St Helena Tourism would also like to hear from any bands, musicians and performers that would be interested in providing entertainment for the cruise ship visits, notably on the 27th for the Poesia.

For further information about the upcoming cruise ship visits, please contact the Tourist Office.

St Helena Island
A breath of fresh air

Festival of Walking

Walk of the Week

Date: Saturday, 17 February 2024
Start Time: 9am

Meeting point: Entrance to pastures at Thompsons Wood (at the end of the surfaced road).

Blue Point is a popular walk on the south-west side of the island with colourful landscapes and spectacular views of the ocean. Conservationist Stedson Stroud along with Selene Gough from the St Helena Research Institute will join walkers to talk about their work. Download the iRecord St Helena App (QR Code below) before the walk to record flora as you explore the trail.

Remember to wear sensible walking shoes, bring plenty of water and sunscreen.

Walk grade: Post Box Walk, suitable for families (children 8 years +)

3-4 Fairly easy

Next Week, for the Saturday, 24 February to Lemon Valley book your space for the bus and boat by noon on Thursday, 22 February 2024.

Upcoming walks

Date	Walk	Host
Saturday 24/02/2024	Lemon Valley	Adam Sizeland
Sunday 03/03/2024	Thompson's Valley	Andre Bak & Kevin Ryder
Saturday 09/03/2024	Manati Bay	Tom Wortley
Sunday 17/03/2024	Powell's Valley	Andre Bak & Kevin Ryder

StHelena iRecord

Android iOS

To register your interest and receive email updates of the 'Walk of the Week' contact Dianne via dianne.venning@sainthelena.gov.sh or call the Tourist Office T:22158 or M:67245





"Education is a basic human right for all and is important for everyone to make the most of their lives. Every person is entitled to a quality education without discrimination."

(#7. The right to education)

50/50 RAFFLE

St. Helena's Active Participation in Enterprise is a social enterprise providing training and work opportunities, in a supportive environment, for vulnerable adults who need help to develop skills to enable them to become employed. Our mission is to lead in an area that provides a range of opportunities for disabled persons and other disadvantaged groups to realise their potential. We believe in a fully accessible society where all people can enjoy freedom of choice and equality of opportunity. A great opportunity for the St Helena Community is the arrival of the Equiano Cable.

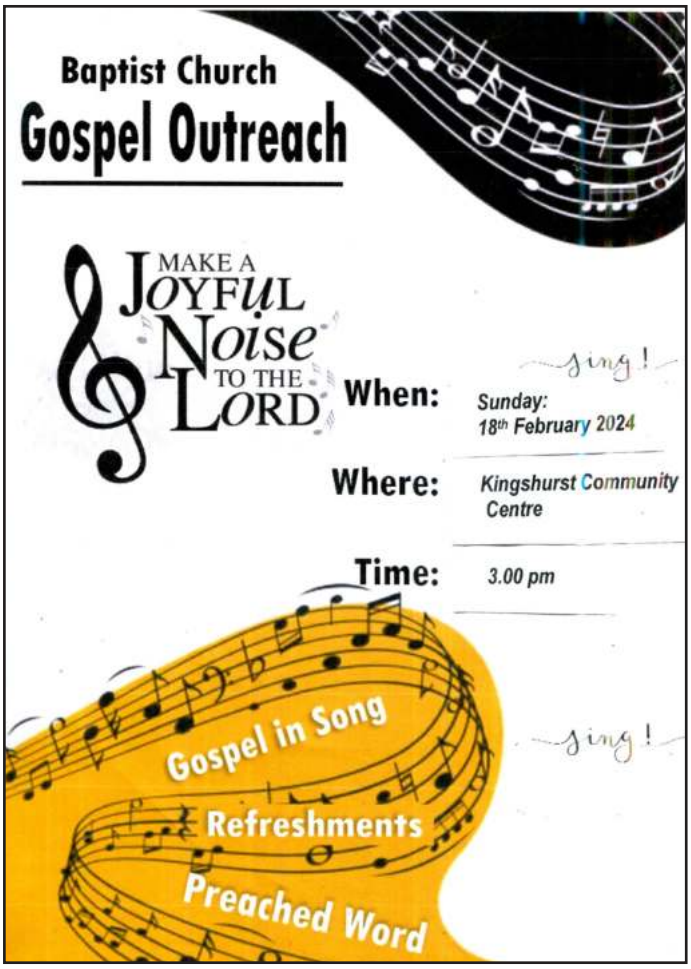
"Introducing Equiano subsea cable allows for the provision of a strengthened education service, supporting the development of skills, creativity and life-long learning facilitating enhanced online education in all schools, the Public Library and the Community College. This will allow us to use the latest technology to teach digital skills to Islanders of all ages, enhancing the educational experience they need to prosper in the job market of the future. In agreeing this way forward, SHG is delivering on its promise that all on St Helena will benefit from the strategic investment made in the Equiano undersea cable." (https://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/2023/news/st-helena-connects-to-the-subsea-cable/)

SHAPE fully supports this thought and is already experiencing the benefits of an unlimited internet package. However, to meet the educational needs of our Clients and Trainees SHAPE needs more than that. With this 50/50 Raffle we aim to raise money to invest in IT equipment (tablets, software...etc) giving them an equal chance to be educated and make the most of their lives.

We need your help!

With the purchase of one ticket you will have a chance of winning **£500** whilst supporting SHAPE for a great cause.

NOTICE BOARD



BAPTIST CHURCH

Gospel Outreach Service
Sunday 18th February
Kingshurst Community Centre 3.00 pm

No services will be held in the Sandy Bay, Head O'Wain and Jamestown Chapels.

Bible Studies
Tuesday 20th February
Baptist School Hall 7.00 pm
Thursday 22nd February
Sandy Bay Chapel 5.30 pm

ALL ARE WLCOME.

For further information contact:
Tel No 24644

ALL ARE WLCOME

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Tel No 24644

ST HELENA NATIONAL TRUST

INVITATION TO TENDER

The St. Helena National Trust would like to invite suitable contractors to submit tenders for the following contracts under the Darwin Plus project, DPLUS190: Improving St Helena's Grasslands to benefit people and wildlife:

DPLUS190 – 001 – Ploughing, rotovating and rolling of selected site at Bottom Woods.

DPLUS190 – 002 – Ploughing, rotovating and rolling of selected site at Deadwood Plain.

The work required is briefly described as; a method of invasive plant control involving ploughing the soil, breaking it down with use of a rotavator and then rolling to help compact it.

The tender document, including more details of the contract can be obtained from the front desk at the St Helena National Trust, Broadway House, Jamestown. Contact Amanda Constantine, email: amanda.constantine@trust.org.sh or Tel: 22190.

The chosen contractor should be able to demonstrate suitability of equipment to be used for the job.

Applicants may apply for one or both contracts.

A site visit will take place on Monday, 26th February, meeting at 10am at Bottom Woods (by the Weather Station), and 12pm at Deadwood Plain Gate.

Site visits on other dates will be considered on a case by case basis as work schedules allow.

For more details, do not hesitate to contact Denis Leo at dennis.leo@trust.org.sh or 22569.

Please submit completed tender forms to Amanda Constantine at Broadway House, Jamestown.

Deadline for tenders is **4pm on Monday, 4th March, 2024**

RSPB DARWIN INITIATIVE

Golf Report for the Charles Duncan Challenge Cup 2024



SHGC, Contributed

The annual Charles Duncan Challenge Cup took place on Sunday, 11 February, under cloudy skies. A total of 23 players participated in the competition, which featured an 18-hole stable ford format.

Winners and Results:

- **1st Place**: Jason Hopkins with an impressive score of 42 points
- **2nd Place**: Captain Bramwell Bushuru and Vice-Captain Martin Buckley tied with 36 points. After a count back, Bramwell emerged as the runner-up
- **Longest Drive (Gents)**: Jeffrey Stevens
- **Longest Drive (Ladies)**: Katinka
- **Nearest to Pin (Gents)**: Tony Green
- **Nearest to Pin (Ladies)**: Helena Stevens
- **Two-ball pool winner**: Keith Joshua

The competition showcased remarkable skill and sportsmanship among the participants, making it a memorable event for all involved. Mr Tony Duncan who presented the prizes on behalf of the family thanked all participants for taking part in this event which has been ongoing for the past 25 years. A big thank you to the Duncan family for their continued support.

Coming up on Saturday and Sunday, 17 & 18 February, will be the Annual Solomon's Challenge Cup, generously sponsored by Solomon and Company (St Helena) Plc. Big prizes to be won. Registration closes on Friday, 16 February, at 3pm.

Happy swinging!

Greetings from Jamestown Rifle Club



Pat Henry, Contributed

We welcome Rt Hon Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, Miss Helen Wood, his Chief of Staff, and Mr David Clark, Deputy of Staff to the Speaker of the House of Commons. Welcome, and enjoy your honourable visit.

After a long await since 2017 we are delighted to accommodate three entries who has signed up to challenge themselves with rifle, air pistol and archery shooting for their activities in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award starting end of February 2024. This scheme is intended to help both the young as well as those who are concerned for their welfare. The object is to provide an introduction to worthwhile leisure activities and voluntary services as a challenge to the individual to discover the satisfaction of achievement and as a guide for those people and organisations who would like to encourage the development of their younger fellow citizens.

Tuesday's shooting, we saw some disappointing unhappy faces with their performance after returning their target cards with lower scores than usual. At some stage in our lives we all experience the highs and lows, whether its sporting activities or relationships, these challenging tasks demonstrates how shooting helps strengthen your mind, confidence and control. So well done and worth mentioning is young Josie who shot 88+92.1= 180, Florence 93.1+94.1=187.2, Douglas shot 97.3+98.4=195.7 and Simon D 93.2+94.3=187.5, well done Douglas for taking the top position and aiming right-on-target.

Both Jordana Peters and Jolan Henry is making good progress with their archery training, we have started to lengthen our shooting distances and hope to develop our performances rapidly. There are other keen potential talented youth identified and would like to showcase their skills but getting to and from our training venues is a disturbing problem for them. So until next week, stay well and healthy and be grateful and cherish every moment in our lives with God's blessings.

SPORTS ARENA

One Step Closer to the Title



The first game of the weekend saw Challengers dismantle the Levelwood Rebels with an excellent bowling display, dismissing them all for just 59 runs. In reply, Challengers chased down the total within six overs. Star player, Andrew Yon, was named Player of the Match with bowling figures of four wickets for 14 runs, leaving his team Challengers one step closer to retaining their league title.

The second match saw a much-improved performance by Lions who took on Western A Mustangs. Lions won the toss and chose to bat, producing a score of 140 all out, with help from an impressive batting performance by Scott O'Bey with 67 runs. Mustangs however were up for the fight, and chased down the score within 20 overs, thanks in large to a solid 52 runs by Player of the Match, Barry Stroud.

The first match on Sunday saw Jamestown Heat take on the in-form Sandy Bay Pirates. Pirates opted to bat first and put up a massive total of 278 runs, with the bulk of these coming from Player of the Match, Greg Coleman on 83, as well as Ronan Legg with 63. In reply, Heat put on a good chase but ultimately fell short of the required target, leaving Pirates to take the win by 54 runs.

Finishing up the weekend was Cobras versus the Levelwood Allstars. Allstars batted first and another impressive century from Player of the Match, Aiden Leo, helped them to a more than healthy total of 317 runs. The Cobras replied with 158 after the full 35 overs, meaning Allstars would take the victory by 159 runs.

District T20 league starts this weekend



Saturday 17th Feb

9am - 1.30pm Junior Cricket Training/ Match
1.30pm - Lions v Challengers
Umpires: Damian Burns and Dax Richards

Sunday 18th Feb

8am - St Pauls v Longwood
Umpires: Barry Stroud and Scott Crowie

11am - HTH v Levelwood
Umpires: David Young and Rhys Francis

2pm Jamestown v Sandy Bay
Umpires: David George and Alasdair Bain

